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TRANSLATIONS OF A LETTER

ADDRESSED BY

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE, BART., F.R.S.

MEMBER OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE MEDJIDIE OF THE SECOND CLASS,

TO THE

Jewish Congregations in the Holy Land,

ON THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS IN THAT COUNTRY,

AND OF THE

REPLIES RECEIVED THERETO.

Submitted by SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE *to the Palestine Committee of the above Board.*

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TRANSLATION OF LETTER

ADDRESSED BY

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE, BART.,

TO THE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS IN THE HOLY LAND.

"I have set the Lord always before me."

GROSVENOR GATE, PARK LANE,
LONDON, *Wednesday, 15th of Ab*, 5634.

Peace, peace, to the chosen of the people, whose delight is in the law of the Lord; my soul loves them according to their worth and dignity. May the Eternal bless them. May their reward be complete from the Lord, the God of Israel, and may their eyes and ours behold the glory of the rebuilding of Arce-él.

To the Rev. the HAHAM BASHI and the Representatives of the several Hebrew Congregations in the Holy City of * * *

GENTLEMEN,

It has ever been my earnest desire, since I first had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the state of great poverty and distress that prevailed among you, to ameliorate

your condition and cause salvation to spring forth in the Holy Land by means of industrial pursuits, such as agriculture, mechanical work, or some suitable business, so as to enable both the man who is not qualified to study, but is fully able (by his physical strength) to work, as well as the student, who, prompted by a desire to maintain himself by the labour of his hands, may be willing to devote the day to the work necessary for the support of his family, and the night to the study of the Law of God, to find the means of an honourable living.

Already, in the years 5599 and 5626, I entreated you to assist me with your wise and judicious counsel, and begged of you to point out to me the right path. I then forwarded to you statistical and agricultural forms, to enable you to record therein all the information required, and you most cheerfully complied with my request, and gave me all the particulars referring to these subjects.

I, on my part, made known to all my friends and acquaintances the information I received from you; but, unfortunately, from various unaccountable causes, I met with little success, and your condition remained the same as before.

Having again this year noticed all the troubles and hardships you had to undergo from scarcity of bread, and from want of means to procure it, I thought I would try again, now for the third time, to ascertain whether any of your suggestions regarding the best mode of ameliorating your condition, either by agriculture or by mechanical work, within or without the house, or some suitable business pursuits, if clearly and distinctly set forth to our brethren, might not, under present circumstances, be more favourably received, and induce them more readily to

hasten with their succour to a most deserving class of people, so as to procure lasting comfort among you.

Let me, therefore, entreat you to fully acquaint me with your views on this subject; point out to me what I am to do in order to hasten thereby the cause of bringing salvation into the land. Consider well which is the proper path, appearing most clearly to you, to produce the remedy you stand in need of.

By doing so you will comply with the wishes of your brethren, who love and kiss as it were the dust of the Holy Land.

Be strong and of good courage. Do not say, "Our words are of no avail," but send speedily a reply to him who holds you in great esteem, and prays for the welfare of his people.

(Signed) MOSES MONTEFIORE.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

FROM THE

HOLY LAND

IN REPLY TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.

JERUSALEM,

14th Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc. JERUSALEM.

HONOURED SIR,

WE, the undersigned, representatives of each and every community of Jerusalem, beg to acknowledge the letter bearing date the 15th Ab, addressed by you to the Holy Land, a copy of which was sent to each Congregation of this city. Inasmuch as peace and concord reign amongst all the Congregations, we appointed a time and assembled together, when your affectionate words and compassionate suggestions, which are only additional proofs of the faithful love you bear for the Holy Land, were placed before us.

We observe that you wish, before the execution of the contemplated improvements, to ascertain the feelings of the people upon the subject.

In your letter you ask of us information respecting Mechanical Work, Agriculture, and Business Pursuits. These are three distinct matters, both in their prosecution and in

M. their consequences; each requires thorough investigation; and the position of the people must be studied—those who may be called upon to work must be adapted to it.

The next thing is to find out how many will accept the scheme which is offered; then, what amount would be expended in assisting the prosecution of any of these pursuits, for, according to the excellence of the prospect that would be offered to them, so would be the minds of the people.

Now, Sir Moses (whose aim is only to do good), be not angry when we ask of you what is the scheme proposed as to the three kinds of occupation? How it is to be conducted? Will the work yield sufficient to sustain many or few of the people? When we have obtained from you these particulars we shall be better able to enquire amongst our brethren which occupation they may prefer, and it will be that which we shall select, and ask of you to proffer to the people.

We particularly desire that your plans be not made known in public until they are on the point of execution, for many will be found to leave their homes in distant lands, to come here in anticipation of the great boon that is about to be conferred on the community, and, should the project fail, we beg you to observe the evil that would befall both the strangers who would flock here as well as ourselves.

Those are the words of those who esteem you.

Signed by the Representatives of the Community.

JERUSALEM,

14th Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

HONOURED SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the circular addressed to the representatives of all the Congregations of Jerusalem, bearing date 15th Ab, as likewise the one specially directed to me; and having resided in this city for nearly thirty-four years, and knowing (I flatter myself) the disposition of the inhabitants, as likewise the means of promoting their future welfare, I am emboldened to appear before you with these few lines, to make known to you my honest and candid opinion on the contents of your circular. You propose three things, viz., "Agriculture, Mechanical Work, and Business Pursuits," but I prefer the two latter to the former, for reasons which I am about to explain. "Business Pursuits" ought to be encouraged, notwithstanding the fact that there are many among us who are engaged in mercantile transactions, and only few of them successful; it is the want of capital and the high rates of interest which completely shut out their prospects. But, if some friends of Israel were to advance them money at the rate of 5 per cent., they would be able to maintain themselves, and, in the course of time, possess the means of returning the money. Mechanical Work is done on an extensive scale in Jerusalem; artisans are to be found in all the communities of the city; there are tailors, shoemakers, cobblers, carpenters, blacksmiths, silversmiths, watch makers, and the like, some of them devote the day to work, and the night to study the law of God, but, no doubt, if more skilful artisans were to come to Jerusalem and teach the young ones, the latter would in the course of time be more successful than their fathers were.

M. If manufacturies could be established there is no doubt that many of the inhabitants would derive great benefit from it, there being many friends of the Holy Land who would gladly purchase any article that might be manufactured in the Holy City.

Respecting "Agriculture," which it is your chief aim to establish here, although there are to be found amongst us many who would willingly accept the task, and although there are many of the leading men of our community who are anxious to further the project, as they say it bespeaks the restoration and salvation of "Judah and Jerusalem," yet, according to my humble opinion, this is not the course that will prove successful with our community, for many dangers are attached to the movement, dangers both to the soul and to the body, unless it be done in the way adopted here, by entering into a kind of partnership with a Non-israelite, or by allowing him for his labour a part of the produce. But if the Jews are to do the work themselves, and go to the field, lodge in the villages, "Sowing in tears expecting to reap with joy," I must express the opinion that it is extremely doubtful whether they would remain firm in their religion. Nor am I quite certain whether they could stand the amount of labour which would be imposed, and what would be their end? Many other obstacles are visible to my eyes, too numerous to commit to writing, and in my opinion the present time is not adapted for the acceptance of such a measure; we must wait until the period of salvation and redemption shall have arrived.

I hope that the Almighty may direct you in the proper path; and with prayers, etc.

A Postscript is added, in which the writer claims

Dr. Loewe's attention to the remarks made in his letter, although, the writer says, opinions, the reverse of his, are expressed and determined upon by the leading men and representatives of the various Committees in the Holy Land; still, truth is acceptable, and it is his duty to make it known. The writer, referring to some order Sir Moses had given in a former letter, states that the wall of the estate, known by the name of "Kérém Moshe Ve-Yehoodit," had been in the hands of the builders during the last three weeks, when finished he would let Sir Moses know. Returning to the subject of ameliorating the condition of the Jews, he adds that a boon might be bestowed on the poor inhabitants of Jerusalem, by the erection of a number of houses, as the place, at present, is being overcrowded, owing to the many new arrivals from distant lands, and the rent is too heavy for them to bear. If it could, therefore, be proposed to Sir Moses Montefiore that he should authorise the building of a number of houses for the poor on his estate, "Kérém Moshe Ve-Yehoodit," there would be found several persons who would be willing to build them at their own expense, on condition that the houses be then considered their own property. By doing so, Sir Moses would confer a great deal of good on the community.

In consequence of the high demands for rent, a society has been formed, to which many have become subscribers; it bears the name of מאה שערים (one hundred gates), its object being to erect one hundred houses; each person contributes a fixed amount, and by this means they have already built ten houses on a plot of ground outside the city wall to the north, which has been bought by one hundred members of the society. If a sum of money could be advanced to them at a low rate of interest, say 4 or 5 per cent.

EM. the houses could be soon finished, and a great boon bestowed on the inhabitants; all the transactions referring thereto could be made through the English Consul, in the name of Mr. . . . . an Englishman, who is known to him as an honest and respectable merchant in Jerusalem. The writer has purposely omitted mentioning this subject in the body of his letter to Sir Moses Montefiore, as in his communication no reference is made to the subject. 'House Building is, therefore, a suggestion emanating from himself, and he leaves it to Dr. Loewe to introduce the same to Sir Moses Montefiore's notice.

JERUSALEM,

End of Elul, 5634.

To the beloved of God's people, Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

From your letter, bearing date the month of Ab, it appears that you are anxious to obtain a safe means by which to help those who will engage in Agriculture and general business pursuits.

These suggestions have encouraged us to address you these few lines, and to place before you certain propositions and plans which we trust will meet with your approbation.

It is now nearly seventeen years since we engaged in mercantile pursuits. The merchandize which finds sale here, we generally import from the following cities in Europe, viz: — Leipsic, Vienna, Trieste, Paris and London; our principal business, however, is with Leipsic and Trieste. We

likewise export to Europe goat and sheep's skins, and the like, and it is nearly four years since we also engaged in Agriculture. Already we are possessed of five **Fádáns** among the Arabs, known by the name of Bedouins, who inhabit the plains of the Jordan eastward; thanks to God success has not altogether turned its back upon us, although our occupations yield us but a small profit, although we are obliged to watch by night and work by day, and feel it our bounden duty likewise to set aside certain hours in the day for the study of our Holy Law, for so it behoves those who reside by the House of the Lord, our sole object being to earn our livelihood by our industrial pursuits through the help of God.

For nearly ten years past we have ceased to participate in the general distribution styled "Halukah," the money for which is sent here by the different countries in Europe, for as we observed before, our endeavours always have been to earn our living by the work of our hands.

We flatter ourselves that we possess special ability for commercial pursuits; all our business is conducted with care and keen judgment, and we are confident that were we residing in Europe, and carrying on a business, we should have been very prosperous; yet here we cannot find complete success, and if you ask us the reason, we answer that it is because we have not adequate capital, and cannot borrow money at less than 12 or 15 per cent. per annum, and when this is deducted from the general income of the year, very little profit remains. Many times an opportunity presents itself to us, but the want of money opposes a barrier to our success.

As we are well aware that in Great Britain money can be

FM. easily obtained at the rate of 4 or 5 per cent., we supplicate your kindness towards us in one of the following ways: Either by advancing us a certain amount at the rate of 4 or 5 per cent., or by obtaining for us a certain amount of credit, for only by one of these plans can we succeed in our undertakings, and it is only by these means that we can extend our houses of business or purchase another five Fádáns from the above-mentioned Bedouins. We look hopefully forward to that success which awaits us, and which we shall attribute to your kind encouragement, and we request you to enquire about us of Mr. Charles Netter, who resides in Jaffa, in the place called "Mikveh Israel," for he well knows us to be honest and upright. Through his intervention we obtained from Liverpool, merchandise to the value of £80 on three months credit, which we paid when due, but as credit of three months is of no benefit to us, because almost two months elapse before the merchandise arrives, we did not again avail ourselves of his kindness. Doctor London, who holds a position in the Rothschild Hospital, has many a time invited us to borrow money from him, but what we require is something substantial and beneficial to our future welfare. Trusting that you will incline yourself to this our application, etc., etc.

A postscript is added, addressed to Sir Moses Montefiore. It runs thus:—

Ought a father to give evidence on behalf of his son? Yet I may be allowed to vouch in a few words to the truthfulness of all the statements made in the above letter by the two persons who have signed, viz., my beloved son . . . and his partner, who is his uncle, Rabbi . . . . . They are certainly upright in their business and well experienced in general trading, as they have been

engaged together in business for many years; the only drawback to their complete success is want of capital, perchance therefore they may find grace in your sight to fulfil their desires. May I further remind and solicit the Noble Sir Moses Montefiore that in whatsoever good he intends to establish in the Holy Land under the superintendence of honest directors, he will be pleased likewise to appoint the two who have signed this letter, as they are fit and proper persons to hold any appointment.

P.S.—Referring to our remarks on Agriculture, we beg to say that we do not attempt to express any opinion upon the nature of the movement, but leave it in the hands of our superiors. Should you, however, come to a decision, we are of opinion that a plot of land near Jericho, which is for sale, should be purchased from the Government; this piece of land carries with it the name of "Dooshna of Jericho," for it always was and is a fruitful and rich piece of land. As we are acquainted with the nature of the land, the disposition of the inhabitants of the surrounding villages, the Agriculturists called "Fĕlákheen," and likewise with the Arabs known by the name of Bedouins, by our constant tradings with both these tribes, we know that these places, situated by the Jordan, as well as to the east of it, are the most adapted for the settlement of some of our Brethren, whether it be from the favourable state of the soil, or from the good disposition of the people that live thereon, people who inherit the surrounding villages. There are springs on the plains and the mountains, sufficiently powerful for the use of large factories. The land is also well adapted for rearing cattle, the Bedouins, from a distance of more than two days' journey, bring their cattle there for pasture. The people generally living there are the Bedouins, the nomadic tribe who are always under tent. They are better shepherds than the

EM. Fĕlákheen, are also of a better disposition than the latter, keeping word and faith in their dealings. Although they gain their living by highway robberies, yet in general dealing we assure you they are very honest, and if plots of land about this place could be procured, it would be an easy matter to obtain from the Imperial Court an order for the appointment of guards to protect the roads, as they have already done between Jerusalem and Jaffa, when all fear would be removed.

Independently of the anticipated good results arising from the tilling of the ground, there are many other ways and means by which the Jews could secure a living, for besides the abundance of sheep's wool, which is to be found here at a very low price, there is to be found likewise camel's hair, and from the sale of these two articles much profit could be obtained. There are likewise to be found here many kinds of medicinal herbs, which are almost given away, because they are not yet declared to be very valuable by those who understand their worth. There is an American gentleman, who has been staying in these parts for some time past, simply for the purpose of collecting these herbs, which he tells us are very valuable, therefore, why should not our brethren of the Jewish faith have the same chances offered them?

We conclude, etc.

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

Monday last was to us, the undersigned (one hundred and twenty-five members of several congregations in Jeru-

salem), a day of great rejoicing—a day in which the "Gates of Hope" were opened to us that we might arise from the depths of affliction which have been shattering our existence. With shoutings of joy we read your letters, showing that the Lord has inspired you to bring salvation to the poor of the Holy Land by means of "Agriculture," "Mechanical Work," and "Commercial Pursuits." How pleasant were these suggestions to our ears! especially when coming from one so exalted as yourself, who stand as a fortress to the Congregations of the Lord. JERUSALEM.

We, the undersigned, are at the present moment drinking of the cup of poverty and misery; we have cried aloud and there has been no one to save us. Among us there are a number of artizans, but they cannot realise a sufficiency for bread, though they toil and labour; and our miseries are augmented by the arrival here of several of our poor brethren from distant lands, and alas! especially since the annual contributions which came from our brethren in . . . have been stopped, owing to the miseries and difficulties that surround them in their own places. Being, noble sir, in this position you can imagine our feelings on hearing the sound of salvation which promises an improvement of our condition.

We have therefore prepared this supplication to you, proclaiming thereby our readiness to undertake all that which you may order us to do, and although we know not what is to be the nature or the amount of the work proposed to be imposed upon us, yet as your good and upright disposition are both so well known to us, we are satisfied to accept and execute any task we are ordered to undertake. Many hundred copies have been made of your letter and forwarded

SALEM. to our Brethren abroad, so that they also may have the opportunity to rejoice at the contents of the same.

(Signed) By One Hundred and Twenty-five Members of several Congregations in Jerusalem.

A postscript is added, signed by another body of men, natives of Austria, who state that when they were in their own native land they not only possessed fields and vineyards of their own, but likewise superintended farms belonging to others, so that they profess to be well experienced in the planting of trees and all manner of work in the fields; they are willing now to undertake the duties of teaching or to assist in promoting Agriculture in the Holy Land in any way that is approved of by those who seek the tranquility of Zion.

One of the Applicants appends at the foot of the letter a special request to Sir Moses Montefiore, entreating him, in the event of the contemplated improvements being carried out, to appoint him to some post as manager, etc., as he is now reduced in circumstances, while at one time, in his own country, he was wealthy, and contributed to all charities. He professes to be well experienced in the management of farms, etc.

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To the Pious and Benevolent Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE,
Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

Glorious and pleasing has been the day to our community on receiving your letters, and learning therefrom that you contemplated bringing salvation to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, by the introduction of three noble occupations, viz., Agriculture, Mechanical Work, and Business pursuits. How great will be the day when these things are permanently established! When the poor shall be released from darkness to enjoy light! When the continued dangers of famine shall be stayed! And when the poor shall earn their daily wants by their own industry, and be thus saved from the cruel expressions of uncharitable persons, who style them "beggars and idlers!"

Hasten, we pray you, the day of salvation, for nothing will save them more than the establishment of these noble institutions.

Praised be the Lord for thus inspiring you, at your advanced age, to further promote the permanent welfare of your brethren, and with prayer, etc.

Enclosed you will find the signatures of all those who are desirous of engaging in Agricultural pursuits, or some mechanical work; all of them are of a healthy and strong constitution.

Some of them have already been cultivating the land

RUSALEM. before, in this country and abroad. With your permission, I will next time give all the particulars respecting the number of their families, their respective ages, their present occupations, and the names of the congregations to which they belong.

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

Many years have we endured the bitter sufferings of poverty, and every year is our distress augmented by fresh arrivals of our poor brethren from distant lands.

We have cried aloud to our brethren who are wealthy and benevolent, to obtain for us a remedy which will permanently improve our condition, but our cries have not attracted attention, though it is our duty to acknowledge that we have received temporary aid for our wants from time to time, without which we should have expired.

But this sort of assistance will not improve our future welfare, and it is this that we have been anxious to secure during the past eight years, in order that we might base our hopes of provision for ourselves and family on the fruits of our labour, and not on the occasional distributions of charity.

On a former occasion when we addressed you, Noble Sir, on this very subject, you were pleased to promise us that

you would give our application, *which asked that land be procured for us, that we work at it and live on its fruits as our fathers did before us in the days of old,* your due consideration, but pending your determination, lo, another blow has been dealt upon us from above; *the cruel visitation of famine* has visited us during the year, and it has completely ruined us. JER

We gladly observe this day, that the Lord has inspired you with additional benevolence towards your people, who you must be satisfied are struggling under very heavy difficulties, and that you propose carrying out the long expected promise, by granting our desires to establish colonies in the Holy Land.

Do, we pray you, hasten this redemption, and be assured that we are anxious and ready to work now as we were a few years back.

We need no tutor, as our energies will inspire us to carry out the required duties, more than all schools of Agriculture, and if you will grant us the following three requests, we, as well as our wives and children, will proceed to discharge faithfully any duties you may be pleased to impose on us.

1st. Procure a plot of land in the vicinity of Jerusalem, allotting to each person a portion thereof large enough in proportion to his ability to till it and preserve it on condition that it shall be his and his descendants for ever, but he shall never have power to dispose of it, knowing that the plot of land, as well as the seed therein, belong to him, he would exert himself to improve the land, just as the Wurthemberg people did in this country, when they became

aware that the land they cultivated might be considered as their own.

2nd. Provide us with oxen, as likewise all necessary implements and machinery required for Agriculture.

3rd. Encourage us to build dwellings for ourselves, allowing us for the first two or three years an annual allowance, so that we may be able to give our entire time and attention to the ultimate success of your Institutions. Relief, similar to this we observe, has been bestowed upon our non-Israelitish neighbours by their benefactors.

With prayers, etc.,

(Signed)

BY THIRTY MEMBERS OF THE SEVERAL COMMUNITIES IN JERUSALEM.

JERUSALEM,
15th Elul, 5634.

To our Protector and Master, the pious Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE.

RESPECTED SIR,

It is now some years since we embraced Judaism and took up our residence in this holy place, and we and our children have suffered equally in the many miseries and afflictions that have visited the house of Israel.

We have now heard that the Lord has inspired you to seek a remedy for the poor by introducing in this place "Agriculture," "Mechanical Work," and various Mercantile pursuits, but that, prior to your carrying out the contemplated scheme, you seek to ascertain the feelings of the people. We hasten, therefore, to convey to you our own ideas, and to express to you our anxiety and willingness to work in whatsoever it pleases you to direct us. JERUSALEM.

Although we know not the full particulars of the kind of work and occupation you intend introducing for our benefit in the Holy Land, as we are satisfied that your aim is always directed towards the welfare of your brethren, and as our present miseries are beyond description, we willingly submit to carry out all your directions.

With prayers,

(Signed) BY THIRTEEN GAYREY TSEDEK.

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

I greatly rejoiced to learn that many of our benevolent brethren have aroused themselves to consider important means with which to secure the tranquility and well-being of the poor inhabitants of the Holy Land. Though I dare not take credit to myself for a large share of general knowledge, yet I cannot rest without giving vent to the feelings

that move me to your presence. If only a small portion of my suggestions and plans (which I will hereafter mention) are accepted, it will afford me a great amount of gratification.

There are to be found at the present day on the roadway between Jerusalem and Hebron, extensive and fruitful plots of land, surrounded by springs which send forth their waters from the surrounding mountains, and which collect in three large pools; there is in the neighbourhood of Boorák, the ancient Eyn Étám a very large and strong building, and the whole place is unoccupied. With a little expense such a building as this could be repaired and improved for the reception of poor families, and with the powerful waters mentioned, many mills and factories, which require the proximity of water, could be successfully established.

Upon the plains, the hills, the mountains, and the high places, gardens could be made, the land could be ploughed, vineyards could be formed, and cattle could be reared.

At present this place is entirely desolate, and on passing it, I shed tears, exclaiming, "how is it that such a beautiful region as this should be destroyed and unoccupied?" I therefore pray you to direct your attention to this beautiful spot; purchase it, and thus release it from the hands of the Non-israelitish natives and hand it over to its rightful owners, the Jews. Do not raise an objection to my plan by saying, "how can we take possession of a land that is now held by another nation?" for be assured the Government derives no benefit from this extensive waste of land, and with very little outlay it would be yours; for no one has a claim upon it except the Imperial Government, so that without any obstacle it would be handed over to you to

do with as you please. Would to God that you were able to come and see this glorious place! but as it may be impossible for you to do so, appoint for yourself men who may inquire about it, and I have no doubt that their report will contain more praises about the place than I have recited.

Do not imagine that by mentioning this place I would convey the idea that it is the only lovely and beautiful spot to be found; there are, I assure you, very many high places and open spaces to be found in the Holy Land even more beautiful than the one I have described.

These are, for instance, in Upper and Lower Galilee, (very fruitful indeed) near the Holy City of Tiberias, and which overlook the sea; the springs of this region are sweet and pleasant. I was asked by an intimate friend of mine, who is anxious to engage himself in Agriculture, and who met me in the place which I recommended to you in the first part of my letter, "What doest thou here? Go to Galilee; there you will find fruitful and promising land." Therefore, my dear brethren, obtain possession, if you can, of all these places, for it will tend to improve the condition of the inhabitants.

On the contemplated scheme of Agriculture I will express my humble opinion. Among the natives of the Holy Land, there might not be found one man in a hundred who could understand to lead oxen through fields which are being ploughed; and much less could they understand the business of plantation and similar kind of work required to be done by the Agriculturist, for they never had any experience in it, and without doubt, would do more

mischief than good; yet they are well versed in the language of the country, they have a keen judgment in general dealing, and many are to found among them who are mechanics, such as tailors, carpenters, shoemakers, etc.; many there are, both among the Sephardim and Ashkenazim, who are skilled in these occupations; on the other hand, the natives of my country, namely, Hungary, the natives of Roumania, and the Russians, the majority of whom have all their lifetimes devoted themselves to Agriculture, so that they are well experieneed in the rearing of cattle, in planting vineyards, etc., are fully competent, and now spread forth their hands to their "Heavenly Father," praying for the hour in which they may be enabled to engage in tilling the ground of the Holy Land. I am satisfied that, when the sound is heard, thousands will gather themselves and come from afar, with their children and their property, in order to work and rest tranquil in the desired land; it would be even desirable to invite these people, for they are brought up to be farmers and shepherds almost from their childhood; these two classes of natives and strangers could work well together, and with success, in the contemplated scheme, as the first class, with their knowledge of the Arabic language and the general disposition of the people, could engage themselves in all mercantile dealings and act as interpreters; while their brethren (the strangers) would be devoting their time and attention to their fields and vineyards. Here is another important point which must not be lost sight of; in the event of any colony or colonies being formed round or about Jerusalem, spiritual teachers should be appointed to visit them from time to time, in order to instil into the minds of the Hebrew peasants the religious duties imposed upon them by our Heavenly Father.

Having thus spoken on behalf of my people may I entreat you to attach little or no importance to any communications that may be made to you adverse to any of these suggestions. Enquire, I pray you, from the great and learned Dr. Adler, and he will tell you the general feeling of the people upon these subjects, which he must have observed from the contents of a pamphlet he received some time back published by the great and learned Rabbi Akiba Joseph Schlesinger, which bears the name of Collel Hácebrim, or collection of ideas upon the position of the Hebrews; in this work the author has gone into full details as to what would be beneficial to the inhabitants of Zion, and even, if it be not entirely approved of by you, let me assure you that it contains an expression of the feelings of the majority of the people who are anxiously awaiting the pleasing and speedy tidings of salvation. JERUSALEM.

With prayers, etc.,

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To the most Respected and Pious Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

HONOURED SIR,

Your esteemed circular, bearing date the 15th Ab, which was forwarded to each individual Congregation of Jerusalem, was laid before us this morning. Who is the man who could withhold tears of joy on observing the noble sentiments expressed by you with regard to the improved

JERUSALEM. welfare of the poor of the Holy Land. The representatives of all the communities have assembled together and agreed upon the reply that is to be made to you, but yet as we are pressed by hundreds of families to place their earnest desires before you, we can not refrain from addressing this special letter to you in order to place before you the sincere wishes of their hearts.

This petition is not made on behalf of those who have come here to end their days in peace and comfort, having an annual allowance sent to them by their relatives in distant lands, neither does it come from those tradespeople or mechanics who supply their daily wants by their established businesses or trades; but it emanates from those men who maintained themselves in distant lands by industry and work, who contributed in their own places to all charities, who left their native lands under the erroneous idea that in Jerusalem, with a very small capital, they would be able to transact business or purchase lands, etc., and who, while meditating as to the course that should be pursued in this strange land, have lost the small amount which they brought with them. Many of this kind of people are unfortunately to be found here who go a day, or even two days, without food, in order to hide their own disgrace; these poor sufferers endure many afflictions, and when they behold their altered times, they imagine that a thousand eyes are cast upon them in the streets. It is on behalf of this class that we supplicate your kind feelings; they are so anxious to obtain work that if they were ordered to plough the land they would do so with their hands and feet, if practicable, in order to earn honest bread for their children. These men have surrounded us this day, and pressed us to address you on their behalf, that you may be pleased to hasten the establishment of Agricul-

ture in this land, and we pray that you may so arrange this as to restore life to the people of the Lord. JERUSALEM.

We have no doubt that if you carry out the contemplated scheme, our gracious and merciful sovereign the Sultan, may his glory be elevated, will condescend to encourage the movement in every way; we believe that he will give us any amount of land at a very low price, if it be only for the glory of his own dominions.

Noble sir, the general trading and manual labour would bring with it beneficial results, yet they are not to be compared to the great help and benefits which the inhabitants of Jerusalem would derive from Agriculture. In our own opinion we, who have resided in Jerusalem for many years, and who have witnessed the terrible days of the past, as well as the present day, and who, observe the privileges the Jews now enjoy, through being freed from the terror of the Arabs who inhabit the villages knowing also that there is a great deal of land to be obtained at a very moderate price, most of the fields being left uncultivated, are satisfied that the movement would certainly be a successful one.

Accept, we pray you, this our letter, and if you specially desire it, we will furnish you with a list containing the names of every individual who is anxious and willing to accept any task imposed on him by your noble directions.

Concluding with salutations of peace,

(Signed) BY TWO WELL-KNOWN GENTLEMEN.

LEM.

JERUSALEM,
22nd Elul, 5634.

To the Righteous Prince, Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE,
Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

You may be surprised that we address a second letter to you within a week from our last, but as it has pleased you to direct one of your circulars to us, copies of which have been issued to the representatives of every congregation of Jerusalem, bearing date the 15th Ab, and we happen to have the opportunity of reading your interesting remarks to the Representatives of the Congregations of England on Colonel Gawler's letter, which tend to add another proof of your faithfulness to the cause of the Holy Land, and your anxiety to improve the miserable condition of the people, for as an eagle arouseth its nest, so do you move the hearts of your brethren to heal the afflictions and the miseries of the poor inhabitants of Jerusalem, we thought you might be pleased to receive information on the subject again, even from humble individuals like ourselves, knowing that our intentions are good.

Permit us to place before you our humble opinion respecting the matter contained in your circular. It is true that in our letter of last Friday, we made known to you the feelings of many hundreds of families in this city, who were entreating you to save them by establishing Agricultute in this place, but we have since deeply considered this subject, and have arrived at the conclusion that in carrying out their desires, a heavy responsibility will be cast upon your noble Board, unless a committee is formed of the inhabitants of this city, consisting of educated men, men who are well-informed in the laws of the country, as likewise in

the disposition of the people. We feel it our pleasing duty to offer you our services; we are prepared to serve your Board with all our hearts, and to carry out any of your instructions; either by investigations and enquiries, or by purchases of property for building or plantation; and we are willing to superintend any of these matters. We are confident that the following gentlemen, who are fit and proper persons, would willingly enlist in the laudable cause, viz.:—the great and eminent (———), he might accept the office of President, if solicited by you; the (———), (———), (———), (———), (———), (———).*

Yesterday we obtained from the Court of the Pacha a catalogue of all the places which have been ordered, by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, to be sold, and which you will find at the foot of this letter. According to what we gleaned from the Pacha's remarks, the sale of these places will be proclaimed in a few days in the streets of Palestine, and there is no doubt that they will find many buyers, for the ground is in good condition: the choicest and safest plot throughout the whole country is that which is situated between Jerusalem and Jaffa. We await, therefore, your instructions, either by letter or telegram, as to whether it is agreeable to you to purchase all or any of these places, which measure above forty million square cubits, and which would supply the wants of at least two hundred families. In our opinion the whole of the property could be bought for a sum of four or five thousand pounds, which we consider very cheap. If you will not authorise the purchase of the whole of the property, we have no doubt that we could procure

* The names of seven gentlemen mentioned in the original are not given here, to prevent jealousy among the Members of the Congregation.

part thereof. We will now conclude, in offering up to you our sincere prayers, etc., and awaiting your speedy reply.

(Signed) By Two Members of the Community.

The following is a list of the places offered for sale, and situated on the road way between Jerusalem, Ramla, and Jaffa, these are the places recommended :—

Lot		Measures.
1.	"Dáran," containing . . .	8,000 Dûnáms.
2.	"Djecráz," „ . . .	2,800 „
3.	"Vad-el-Farosh," containing .	5,200 „
4.	Plots of Ground near to Vad-el-Farosh, containing .	700 „
5.		100 „
6.		40 „
7.		42 „
8.	"Ard-el-Hámáyet," „ .	25 „
9.	"A large garden of Lemons," &c., containing	8,500 „
10.	"Rás Manam," containing . .	15 „
11.	"Vad-el-limoon," „ . .	10
12.	"Rás Vad-el-limoon," containing .	25
		25,457 Dûnáms.

These twelve places contain 25,457 Dûnáms. Each Dûnám measures 1,600 square cubits, so that the whole of the land above named represents 40,731,200 square cubits. A Dûnám in Constantinople, is equal to forty square feet.

JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM.

21st Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

Your kind favour, promising relief to the sufferings of our poor, has reached us, and with praises we lifted up our eyes to our Heavenly Father for having moved your kind heart towards promoting the welfare of your distressed brethren. The state of our poor here is almost like the remnant of the Jews that were left of the captivity in Jerusalem, as described by Hanani to Nehemiah. Unfortunately, we can neither help them nor ourselves. All we can do is, to pray to God, to have compassion on them, especially on those who came here in hopes of living here relieved, to a certain degree, from the sufferings and oppressions, which they had to endure in other countries.

On receiving your circular, it was ordered to be read in the presence of our Congregation, who readily and unanimously agreed to promise to work zealously in any of the good objects you contemplate prosecuting in the Holy Land, especially "Agriculture," so that they may earn their bread for themselves and families by industry.

There are, at the present day, to be found many non-Israelites who have purchased land, tilled it, and are enjoying in abundance its fruits; and lo, we, through want of money and encouragement, are prevented from acting in like manner.

We earnestly entreat you now to hasten the carrying out of the contemplated schemes, as all the inhabitants of Jeru-

salem are anxiously awaiting the hour when they shall be ordered to the field to work; yea, many who are now residing in distant lands would abandon their native lands to come to this place, if they were assured that they would earn their bread by industrial pursuits.

We pray you, therefore, to heal the wounds of your distressed brethren: and, perchance, this will be a year that afflictions will cease, and the approaching year be the year of release to the land, in which the lives of its inhabitants may be spared.

Trusting to receive from you speedily happy tidings,

With prayer,

I am, etc.,

(Signed)

P.S.—A certain Arab whom I know has acquainted me that there are many plots of land on sale by private landowners, as likewise by the Imperial Government, and these lands are to be found on all sides of Jerusalem. I should suggest your enquiring into the matter, and, if you conclude to purchase, I should recommend that all documents or contracts be signed in the presence of the Consul.

JERUSALEM,

22nd Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

Your precious letter reached me, and I observe from it your anxiety to improve the condition of the poor of our

Holy Land, including the poor of our Community, "The natives of Morocco and Africa." You enquire of me how the position of my Community can be improved. I regret to state that the members of my Congregation are in a low and humble state, but they are prepared to obey all your wishes, and as to the tilling of the ground there will be found those who will go willingly to do that which they are asked, although they would stipulate that the fields should be near Jerusalem, and not at any distance. If it please you likewise to improve their present condition by encouraging them to learn a trade wherewith they may earn their bread they will thankfully accept the task, and be faithful to their duties. In reference to the 3rd proposition, i.e. "Business pursuits," they are prepared to carry this out likewise. In conclusion, we pray that God may help you in your undertakings, and awaiting the realisation of the contemplated boons that are to be bestowed on our Community,

JERUSALEM.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

* *

JERUSALEM,

Sunday, Elul, 5634.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,—

You have sent to enquire as to what could be established to improve the condition of your brethren, the inhabitants of Zion; and as I find that liberty is given to the

JERUSALEM. expression of opinion, I address these few lines to you, in order to convey to you my own ideas upon the salvation of the people and the promotion of their future welfare, and I enclose you a pamphlet ("Collel Haeebrim," or collection about the Hebrews), which contains the objects, laws, and regulations of a Society which has been formed here, "Society for the Promotion of the Return of the Crown to its former Position." Pray look through it, and study the welfare of the town and its inhabitants. I have published works, and great has been their circulation; my son-in-law is the great Rabbi ———, who presides over the Congregation ———; and being determined not to yield to the opinions of others (against my convictions), I stand by my own ideas.

It is my opinion that the duties of man are to combine the study of the Law with industrial pursuits. In order to exalt the name of Israel, you will observe that we have established this Society, and as all expressions of opinion are publicly contained therein, no slander can be intended. On the contemplated scheme of the purchase of land, and its cultivation, I think that no charity could supersede this; for all assistance that both yourself and other benevolent gentlemen are rendering to the poor of this land tends only to provide them with a temporary meal, leaving nothing in the recipients' hands, and Zion remains in her desolate state. It would not be so if you were to engage the families of Israel in agriculture, for provision would certainly remain for them for everlasting generations. Observe the success that has attended those Non-israelites who have been encouraged by a society in Germany to colonise this place; they have established themselves between Jaffa and Haifa, and are daily prospering; why should not we have the same chances afforded to us that we may earn

our bread by the labour of our hands, and thus remove the needy from amongst us. I must again entreat you to direct your serious attention to the objects of our society, and if they need improvement please suggest the same, and we promise to effect them, and if it is agreeable to you we should esteem it if you would become patron of the society. Any reply or observation that you may make upon this subject please direct to me individually, as there is nothing better than privacy in matters of importance; all I seek from your hands is on behalf of your people. Whatsoever it pleaseth you to order especially in the purchase of land, be good enough to do so under the superintendence of H.B.M. Consul, with an understanding that each poor person who may have a piece of ground allotted to him shall hold it for the benefit of himself and children, but that he may not dispose of it in any shape or way. Do not listen to the vain words expressed concerning the Jews of Jerusalem, which attribute to them idleness and ignorance rendering them unfit for any labour, for our eyes witness many hundreds who willingly submit to the most menial work whether in the field or in town, and only for the sake of earning by industry their livelihood. May it therefore please Providence to look down upon their affliction by encouraging you to establish the contemplated improvements. I would suggest, in order to secure success to the efforts of our poor brethren while working in the field, that Fĕlákheen and Arabs should be engaged to assist them in the work of agriculture, a method which is practised in Hungary by the Jews and the Non-israelitish peasants; if this plan be adopted rest assured that great success will follow. I have now, in concluding my letter, to make known a matter supposed to be kept secret which occurred some four years ago: N. N. received a letter from a British nobleman asking therein whether the Jews

JERUSALEM. would like their native land restored to them, to which he made no reply; and he was applied to again with the same result. Having heard of this circumstance from N. N. himself, I asked him the name of his correspondent, as likewise the reason why he treated his letters with silence, but he afforded me no satisfaction on either point; it may please you, therefore, to investigate as to who was the enquirer in this matter, as although N.N. has taken no notice of the communication, I maintain that it ought to have been entertained. Arrangements could easily be made for payment of a fixed annual sum of money to the Ottoman Government for the possession of such a right, in the same way as has been done amongst other nations; this would, if carried out, be a stepping stone to the promised redemption of the Jews. However, I leave this matter entirely in your hands. With prayers,

I am yours, etc.,

JERUSALEM,

15th Elul, 5634.

To the worthy representatives of the Congregations, presided over by our Illustrious Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

GENTLEMEN,

My respected father having addressed a long letter to your worthy President, pointing out certain plots of land which are to be had in the vicinity of Jerusalem, especially

the one at Boorak; the valley at Boorak contains arable land sufficient for the maintenance of a considerable town; on the southern hills vineyards and orchards could be planted, producing fruit like the former "vineyard of Eyn Ghedi," and on the fields near the great pools of Solomon vegetables of all kinds might be produced. Near the water there is a ruined castle which might easily be restored to become a useful building, the surrounding hills might be used for the cattle as pasture land. Aqueducts to turn mills and factories could be made, so that the silk, cotton and wool need not be exported in a raw state; it could all be prepared by us here, and would then pay ten times more the amount than what is now realised.

The beautiful spot is, as it were without a master, for it is suffered to remain in an uncultivated state; it is the property of the Turkish Government, and may be obtained, with all the houses thereon, and the privileges connected therewith, at a moderate price, like any other of the land belonging to the government situated between Jerusalem and Hebron, and being unwilling myself to encroach on Sir Moses Montefiore's valuable time, I address myself to you, and beg to confirm the flattering and honest account of these places given by my father in his letter, yielding many advantages too numerous to describe, and I assure you that with very little difficulty you could obtain it, as it is the sole property of the Government, who would gladly dispose of it at very ittle cost.

At "Rama," the birthplace of our "Prophet Samuel," and which is two hours distance from Jerusalem, there are many fruitful and superb pieces of land, there is also an uninhabited building, which could be converted into a dwelling for twenty or even thirty poor families, allowing a space for

the erection of a Synagogue and schools. In Hebron, likewise, there are places which already yield corn, wine, oil, silk and cotton, which, with care and perseverance, could be made to produce endless profits; the waters of all these places are sweet, and are possessed of innumerable advantages. There may be had plenty of animal food, mineral waters, salt, etc. Coal and other mineral productions may be found there too. We only want industrious hands to cause a desert to become changed into a garden of Eden. To attain this end I must entreat your noble board to exercise all zeal in carrying out your ideas; let not the matter be allowed to cool down or be neglected, but persevere, I pray you, if you are anxious to promote the welfare of your poor brethren in the Holy Land, to hasten the execution of their earnest desires.

I trust, therefore, that you will devise means to bring about the promised improvements with as little delay as possible, and with prayers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, etc.,

JERUSALEM,
14*th Elul*, 5634.

To the most worthy Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart.
etc. etc. etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

I beg to acknowledge your esteemed letters, the one dated 12th Ab, and bearing number 6075, enclosing the sum

of £9, sent to me, through you, by the learned Rabbi Moses Landsberg, and for which I have to tender you my sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken on my account. The second, dated the 15th Ab, putting to me three questions, as to whether if "Agriculture," "Mechanical Work," or "Business Pursuits" were established here, they would improve the condition of our brethren? In compliance with your wish, I have the honour to inform you that I attended yesterday a meeting of all the Representatives of the several German Congregations and other distinguished men of the Community, when the following observations were made by some of the speakers, referring to the encouragement of Mechanical Work and Commercial Pursuits. We have, thank God, they said, here in the Holy City, a considerable number of mechanics; there are among us whitesmiths, blacksmiths, gold and silversmiths, tailors, and shoemakers, etc., only a few of them, however, can secure by their work the full amount they require for the maintenance of their family. We have also a good many persons who have some property of their own, and follow certain commercial pursuits, of these some are able to maintain themselves entirely by it, some can only with difficulty, and with some assistance which they receive from charitable contributions, secure the necessary support to their families.

As to "Agriculture," though there may be found many who would readily go to the field to work, there are yet great difficulties to be encountered in the attempt to carry out the scheme. Where are the means to be procured for the purchase of land, and the necessary agricultural implements? And, supposing money would be advanced for the purpose, what security could there be given that some unknown parties, intrusted with the money and agricultural implements, may not dispose of both in a manner against

the will and instructions of the friends of Zion (it being quite right to assume that among a number of people, there might be some who are not so good as they ought to be).

In short, I may say, at present we are not yet sufficiently acquainted with the scheme you have in view.

An insurmountable difficulty presents itself in the present insecure state of the country. When the crops will be ripe the Arabs and Bedouins will reap the harvest, and will also take away their flocks of sheep and goats, their cattle and beasts of burden required by the Israelites for Agriculture. Why, in the present day, it is not safe for any Israelite to go from Jerusalem to the River Jordan, which is only a distance of six hours, without an escort of soldiers—a fact which is well known to all English, French, and German travellers.

For this and other reasons the Representatives of the German Congregations can not yet give the full reply to your enquiries.

They have sent to the principal Pakeed of the Sephardeïm Congregation, inviting him to attend the meeting, but he declined doing so until he would have consulted first on the subject the Haham Bashi.

I mention all this to you, Sir, merely to point out to you that we, Germans, have lost no time in taking the necessary steps to accomplish the object you have in view as far as it was in our power.

Next week, please God, we shall have a general meeting, taking counsel what best may be done in the matter, and

we shall then all conjointly send a reply to all your enquiries. JERUSALEM.

One thing more we should like to mention to you :—

We read in a journal, entitled "the Lebanon," that some English gentleman brought a certain acceptable scheme before the Board of Deputies referring to Agriculture; we should like very much to know the nature of that scheme. Possibly that gentleman may not be sufficiently acquainted with the insecure state of the roads, etc., in this country.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

(Signed)

P.S.—Since I have written the above, I understand that another meeting has been held, at which certain resolutions have been passed and forwarded to you, but this does not prevent my sending you this letter, believing its contents might prove in some way useful to you.

JERUSALEM,

22nd Elul, 5634.

To the Worthy and Pious Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE,
Bart., etc., etc., etc.

HONOURED SIR,

I was prevented, by certain circumstances, signing the letter forwarded by the leading men of our Community, in

SALEM. reply to your esteemed favour, enquiring from us the best means of promoting the welfare of the inhabitants of this city; and though my poor opinion is worthless, compared with those who have addressed you, yet I beg to concur with them in all that they have said, and to express my surprise that we should be asked to give advice to you or to your respected supporters, when you are possessed of such high attainments in universal knowledge. I must confess, too, that it is difficult for us to advise upon these matters, especially as the Jewish population of Jerusalem consists mostly of old men coming from all parts of the world, differing much in their views on most subjects connected with the Holy Land, the great majority of whom do not understand the Arabic language, and how can such persons engage in Agricultural pursuits? I think that the introduction of Agriculture is a dangerous step—both to life, from the threats of the Arabs, and to the soul, from the possible profanation of the Sabbath Day. I therefore pray that the Almighty may direct you in a successful path, that will relieve the Israelites from the present miseries that surround them. With prayers,

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours, etc.,

(Signed)

JAFFA, 15*th Elul*, 5634.

A.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

In presenting ourselves before your notice, permit us to thank you, as likewise the honourable house of

Rothschild, and other benevolent people of the house of Abraham, for the many favours that you and they have bestowod upon us. May the Lord reward them.

We now beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter, from which we observe your intention of making a permanent improvement in our community, which, unfortunately, is at the present time deficient of all good. In the firstplace, there are a number of poor, but the Congregation has no funds, and they do not derive any benefit from the contributions of their distant brethren, which are enjoyed by the other Holy Cities.

There is no school, and the Synagogue is secured only by paying rent, we therefore look forward anxiously to the execution of your contemplated noble schemes.

That which will materially help us appears to our humble ideas to be, the execution of the following three things:—

1st. To establish a school, where the children of the poor may be maintained, clothed and educated, compelling those who can afford it to pay for their children.

2nd. As a proclamation by the Government has been made, announcing the sale of land, there is a convenient place within the walls of the city, on which should be built a Synagogue, a School, and an Hospice for indigent travellers.

3rd. There is a large plot of land some three hours distant from here, near the village of Ramleh, which is known by the name of Daran; it has the reputation of being very fruitful, and is announced for sale by an imperial procla-

made by you on former occasions, but now that there have been many fresh arrivals from foreign countries since the Government has chosen to allow any person to purchase and to till the ground, and since you have been inspired to elevate the position of the Holy Land, many householders, as likewise those who are learned in law, have determined to work and to till the field and the vineyard, and thus earn their bread by their industrial pursuits. It only now requires a sufficient amount of money with which to encourage them, and there certainly will be found many who will be anxious to undertake the work. There is here to be found a large plain, near abundant water, which is called "Bákhr el-Khit;" if by means of steam power the water could be brought into the plain, the result would be extremely beneficial; for if, God forbid, there should be no rain the waters would prove of great benefit to all kinds of plantation, cotton, rice and poppy seed, etc.

SAYED.

These are now our suggestions in reference to Agriculture and according to your orders so shall it be done.

In reference to your enquiries respecting mercantile pursuits, there are many here who are of keen understanding in this calling, and it rests with you to encourage the weak hands.

Be it known to you, that there are many fatherless children wandering about the streets, and who know no trade.

Notwithstanding that there are here mechanics, such as shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, etc., yet as no premium can be tendered to the masters to teach them the trade, they

Safed. entirely depend upon charity for their sustenance. There is likewise wanting in this place an orphanage capable of accommodating both masters and orphans, and some responsible person to superintend them.

These are the wants of our community, and leaving them entirely in your benevolent hands,

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

(Signed) The Rabbanim of all the Congregations.

Safet, Holy City,

Elul, 5634.

To the Glorious Crown of Israel, Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

Respected Sir,

Among the letters which were addressed to me, there was one directed to the town Pekee-in, and as there is no one among its inhabitants who is sufficiently able to reply on their behalf, permit me to do so.

The inhabitants of the town are all agriculturists; but, alas! through their poverty, and their reduced state amongst their cruel Non-israelitish neighbours, who cast a heavy yoke upon them by demanding heavy taxes from them, they are almost deprived of their lands and their property.

If it please you, noble Sir, let an Imperial edict be issued, ordering suppression of these cruelties, as likewise that the taxes due to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan may be paid direct to the Receiver-General, so that they may be able to enjoy whatever assistance you may be pleased to bestow upon them to encourage them, in peace and comfort. They will be moreover able, in the course of time, to redeem their fields and vineyards. SAFED.

These are suggestions which will tend to the material benefit of the Children of Israel who inhabit the village.

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

BY ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEPHARDEÏM CONGREGATION.

SAFET, HOLY CITY,
13th Tishri, 5635.

To Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

MOST RESPECTED SIR,

With profound respect we beg to approach you this day, to tender you, our father and worthy benefactor, our most sincere thanks for the pleasing intelligence contained in your letter to our Representatives and communicated to us by those gentlemen. From your valued remarks it appears that you contemplate establishing in our midst a

SAFED. measure that will restore to us life, and encourage us to work for our daily want. Oh, noble Sir, it was for a measure similar to this that we have long looked, and now that there is a chance, pray Sir, we implore you, to persevere to carry out your noble designs; far better is it that we go out to the field to work, or otherwise engage ourselves in some industrious pursuits, than that we should rely on participating in some charitable distribution that by chance may take place.

We are all prepared to accept any task of labour you may be pleased to impose upon us, and to execute faithfully your instructions, so that permanent salvation be established in our midst.

There are to be found in Europe many who are sufficiently experienced in the Holy Land (and who, more than yourself?) who could frame plans for our guidance and ultimate success; therefore do we entreat you, lose no time by making further enquiries, but hasten the hour of salvation, as our lives are wretched and miserable.

With everlasting prayers for your continued prosperity.

(Signed)

BY ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE PERSONS.

And their Signatures are confirmed by their Representatives.

Certified by the Austrian Consular Agent.

"In the Name of the Lord."

Safet, Holy City,

13*th Tishri*, 5635.

To the Most Honorable Board of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews, from the Mountains of Zion. May divine blessings rest upon them, Amen.

Respected Sirs,

The position of your reduced brethren in the Holy Land, is, unfortunately, too well-known to you, from the constant appeals that are issued in hours of distress, but, notwithstanding your benevolent aid, no material benefit has reached us; in the general distribution each poor person received two francs, but how long could it have lasted even to satisfy temporary wants!

Some years ago we earnestly solicited our pious benefactor Sir Moses Montefiore, to establish in our midst some tangible improvement, such as *Agriculture*, by means of which the poor might secure for themselves permanent relief, as by its introduction an undoubted salvation would spring forth to the people, for by their return *to the work of the field* it would, with God's blessing, yield to them *"the Wine and the Oil,"* as in days of old; but, to our misfortune and Sir Moses Montefiore's regret, he was unable then to carry out our desires.

We have just now heard, and moreover beheld with joy, a letter sent by Sir Moses Montefiore to our representatives, in which he invites our attention to certain improvements he contemplates establishing in the Holy Land, and, in

SAFED. earnest terms, he beseeches us to be of good courage and not despair. On the strength of this pleasing communication, we hasten now to make known to you our honest desires, in the hope that you will kindly show favour and mercy to the thousands of human beings who are anxious and ready to undertake any kind of service from which they may earn by industry their daily wants.

We are content to leave ourselves entirely in your hands, that you be pleased to select for us the measure you consider will mostly further our interest, as we are satisfied that your sole aim is to improve the present unfortunate condition of your brethren in the Holy Land.

Anxiously awaiting your instructions, which we beg you will send though the kind favour of our representatives, and with prayer for your continued prosperity,

We are, respected Sir,

Your obedient servants,

Signed by one hundred and forty-one persons, and their Signatures are confirmed by their Representatives.

The same being attested by the Austrian Consular Agent at "Saffed."

TIBERIAS, HOLY CITY, TIBERIAS.
Tishri, 5635.

To the Pious and Benevolent Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart.

HONOURED SIR,

When your pleasing message reached this town, I hastened to address you on my own behalf, having resided in this place for nearly thirty years, and being well known to H. B. M.'s Consul, Edward T. Rogers, Esq., and never having participated in charitable distributions, as I have always been engaged in mercantile pursuits, particularly in matters connected with Agriculture, in conjunction with the Arabs; although, unfortunately, at the present time, reverses have befallen me, the cattle I was possessed of having died, and my position being entirely altered, so that oppression and distress daily surround me. Yet I am still independent of charitable aid, and strive to earn my scanty livelihood by travelling from place to place, that by industry I may be able to support my family.

Your welcome message having reached my ears, that it is again your desire to benefit the people by establishing in their midst beneficial institutions, so as to encourage Agriculture, on a plan selected by the Representatives of the Holy Land, which may re-colonise this city, as in days of old, I feel it my duty to acquaint you, that there is just now a Turkish Officer among us, commissioned by the Government, to offer for sale any plot of land a person may wish to buy; and as I am a good judge of the nature of the soil, and am well known among the inhabitants of the surrounding towns and villages, from the long experience I have had when travelling from place to place, I beg most

1148. respectfully to place my services at your disposal, that you may kindly elect me to some post from which I may be enabled to maintain myself and family.

Awaiting the joyful hour that salvation shall spring forth to my brethren, and among them my family and myself, who are all anxious to take part in the contemplated noble undertaking,

With prayers, etc.,

(Signed)

N. N. AND HIS THREE SONS.

A postscript is added and signed by the President of the Caiffa Congregation, setting forth that, at the request of Rabbi—he has much pleasure in confirming all that which he has stated in his letter to Sir Moses Montefiore. That he is an honest and well experienced man in all matters of commerce and agricultural pursuits, is not only known to him, but is likewise known to H. B. M.'s Consul, E. T. Rogers, Esq.; and he therefore recommends him to the kind consideration of Sir Moses Montefiore.

TIBERIAS, THE HOLY CITY,

Heswan 15th, 5635.

"And the Lord answered, and said unto His people: Behold, I will send you the corn and the young wine, and the oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith."

"Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice; for the Lord hath done great things." TIBERIAS.

Honour and glory to our beloved and respected master, the Righteous and Benevolent Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

RESPECTED SIR,

With a fervent prayer, directed to our Heavenly Father, we beg most respectfully to approach you, that He be with you, to spare you to behold the coming of the Messiah. Amen.

The cause of our present address to you, noble Sir, is to acquaint you that some two months have elapsed since we heard of a circular that you had sent, containing an announcement to the inhabitants that they might look forward to the approach of better times, as many improvements were about being established in the Holy Land, the principal among them being "Agriculture;" and, on hearing this, we all pronounced a blessing and thanksgiving unto the Lord, that a redeemer had been spared to protect us.

Some years have passed away since we entreated you, by repeated applications, to introduce this boon in our midst; but our cries were made in vain; and now that you have revived the matter, we hasten to express to you our anxiety and readiness to proceed to work the field, and, moreover, undertake any kind of labour you may feel disposed to impose upon us.

Tarry not, we pray you, in the execution of your noble designs, as our successive miseries have completely prostrated us.

TIBERIAS.

It is our pleasing duty to make known to you that there resides among us a gentleman known by the name of Menahem Mendel Adler. He has been selected to act in the capacity of Consul for the German Government; from him you can learn the many hardships that surround us, and from him, likewise, you can obtain the best information upon all subjects, as he is a man of profound learning and high experience; to him may we beg you will kindly direct all instructions intended for us.

In awaiting the speedy hour of salvation,

We are,

Respected Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

Signed by thirty persons.

We, the undersigned, whose duty it is at all times to share in the misfortunes that attend our brethren, find ourselves compelled to address you, as it is they who are urging us on to do so, by exclaiming to us, "Why lose you this brilliant opportunity? Hasten and make known to our princes and benevolent brethren in distant lands our miserable position, illustrate to them our terrible condition, and they whose ears are ever ready to give heed to our cries will not fail to exercise an effort by means of which salvation shall spring

forth to the land." Expressions after this kind being continually made to us, attended by the utterances of the most bitter anguish, we found no other alternative but to undertake the sacred task entrusted and thrust into our charge, and we now most respectfully beg to offer the same to your noble consideration. TIBERIAS

The hand that would attempt to describe in writing the bitter misfortunes of your brethren, would certainly fail. Their hardships are terrible, and the successive miseries that attend them are wonderful, and no space of time hardly elapses between the disappearance of one visitation, when, lo, another appears. It is remarkable that they do not commit their lives to the sword's edge, but it must be that they indulge in the faith and the hope of enjoying better days in the land of the living.

Would that you had been present, noble Sir, to witness the rush made by the people when summoned to sign the memorial intended to be sent on to you, and which bears your precious name at its head. Would that you could have heard the utterances of their feelings on the contemplated measures; to behold their anxiety and readiness to undertake any kind of labour, provided only that they could earn their daily wants by the toil of their hands, and I am confident that you would spare no means, in order to spring forth salvation to your people.

I have, by a former opportunity, forwarded to you a memorial signed by one hundred and forty householders residing in Safed Holy City, and to that we appended our own remarks. We likewise pointed out to you that we had been pressed by them to assume the duties of advocates, so

TIBERIAS. that we should illustrate to you their real condition, and now again in this instance we could not reject the appeal made to us by those householders, who have signed their names on the first page of this letter, which represents a memorial from them to you. These men are held in dear esteem by us, as they are men whose nights are dedicated to the study of the Holy Law as well as their days, and who, nevertheless, are anxious to undertake any kind of labour that may yield to them their daily wants, earned by the toil of their hands. We have, therefore, undertaken the task of placing their earnest desires before your notice, although they would have preferred our visiting London, but we indulge in the hope that our former letters have already gained favour, and we await with great anxiety their replies, announcing to us your consent to our earnest solicitations.

In concluding my remarks, let me implore you, noble prince, to direct your attention to the Holy Cities; hasten to fill the hearts of your distressed brethren with joy; and may the Almighty spare you and your worthy colleagues to behold the restoration of Zion, is the sincere prayer of your faithful servants.

(Signed)

Their signatures being attested by the Austrian Consular Agent.

SAFFED, HOLY CITY,

Hesvan 15th, 5635.

From the Mountains of Zion let blessings descend on our Benevolent and pious Protector, Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart.

HONOURED SIR,

The contents of your valuable communication made to our worthy Representative, as likewise to his colleague, have been made known to us, and we observe that you enquire, "What would be the best means of improving our condition?" and that you are particularly anxious to hear from us by letter our views upon the improvements you contemplate establishing in the Holy Land. For this purpose we hasten to address you these few lines to make known to you that notwithstanding our having been trained and being recognised as men learned in law, yet we are ready to relinquish our present pursuits and undertake any kind of labour, providing we can earn our daily wants by industry and perseverance, and thus abandon the periodical distribution which makes our life bitter, and our bread obnoxious.

We shall not intrude on you with details in furtherance of our cause, as we are satisfied to leave our interests in the hands of our Representatives. Suffice it for us to implore you to accept, with favour and mercy, our heartfelt desires.

We are, honoured Sir,

Your obedient servants,

Signed by thirteen persons.

SAFFED, HOLY CITY,
25th Tishri, 5635.

To the honourable London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews. May the blessings of God descend upon them.

GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of one hundred and forty householders (who number nearly six hundred souls), we beg most respectfully to address you, and to convey to you their grateful thanks for the happy ideas you have permitted them to indulge in, by the hope that certain improvements are contemplated being established in the Holy Land, by the introduction of Agriculture and manual labour, which would wipe away the disgrace caused by the recent and terrible famine; our brethren entreat you to hasten the introduction of the long looked for salvation.

The hardships your brethren have, and still endure, are indescribable, and I have been compelled to yield to their earnest solicitation by accepting the post of leader and advocate on all matters in which their interest is concerned, and in this capacity I have acted for some time past.

Having now been applied to by the pious and venerable Sir Moses Montefiore, to make known to him the brightest road that may lead to improve the condition of the people inhabiting Zion, and the objects mentioned in his letter being in themselves noble and virtuous, I feel great pleasure in doing so; and this I declare, that the measures contemplated by the worthy Sir Moses Montefiore, are the only ones that will clear away the present evils, and open to the Jews the path that will tend to their salvation. Our people

are already tired, and moreover disgusted with the periodical and charitable aid given to them by their brethren in distant lands; and they are now anxious and willing to undertake any amount or kind of labour, providing it will afford them the opportunity of earning their daily wants by the toil of their hands.

I cannot sufficiently convey to you in writing the great joy felt by the inhabitants on hearing the contents of Sir Moses Montefiore's pleasing circular, and had you been present, I am confident that you would have removed all obstacles that perhaps are now impeding the immediate execution of these noble measures.

I have already forwarded to Sir Moses Montefiore a long letter expressive of my views, and I trust that prompt action will follow.

I have, likewise, made known to him that my people entreated me to visit London, in order to point out to you the many advantages the Jews would achieve by the introduction of Agriculture and manual labour, but I preferred writing at the present time; but if it be your wish that I should come to London, please let me know, and I will be with you.

In conclusion, let me implore you to incline yourselves to the earnest solicitation of your devoted servants, and with prayer, &c.

(Signed)

[redacted].

Safet, Holy City,
26th Elul, 5634.

To Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., etc., etc., etc.

Respected Sir,

While sleeping on our troubled beds, and anxiously looking forward to the four corners of the earth to see from whence shall come our help, lo, a sudden light passed before our eyes, encouraging us with a hope that some good is yet destined for us; the light that shone forth is the contents of your communication to us, bearing date the 15th Ab, on beholding which, the whole of our Congregation shouted with joy; for the faithful servant of the Lord had risen once more to save his brethren, and to bring forth unto them everlasting salvation.

In your letter, that you have addressed to us, you ask your brethren to make known to you their views; you, moreover, recommend them to be of good courage, as they will have no cause to despair. To ensure this, we entreat you, sir, to hoist up to us a sign of good, a sign by which the hearts of the Children of Israel may really be strengthened.

In presenting before your notice our views with which to carry into effect the important measures contemplated upon, we crave your indulgence, and pray to God that He may cause the utterances of our mouths to be acceptable in your sight.

Thou, O Lord, before whom the secrets of all hearts are revealed, knowest that we have exercised our utmost endeavours, by the many communications we have made to the

Chief Men of the House of Israel, imploring them to esta- SAI
blish in the Holy Land substantial improvements, by means
of which we may be able, by the toil of our hands, to earn
our daily wants: and now, that thou the father of Israel
(who causest sorrows to be forgotten) hast arisen to make
another effort to cause salvation to spring forth to
your brethren (as is contained in your circular), thus
arousing your servants, who were at the point of death,
to make known to you their views upon the three
measures, viz., Agriculture, Mechanical Work, and Com-
mercial Pursuits, contemplated to be established in our
midst; I hasten, therefore, in accordance with your desires,
to appear before you in the name of my poor brethren
to express to you their readiness to carry out faithfully any
duties you may choose to impose upon them; hasten, only we
implore you, to send forth without delay the promised salva-
tion, which to us would be the order to lead the herd, and
cultivate the earth, for when we set forth our hands upon
these, perchance our Heavenly Father may deign to perform
in us His long looked-for promises.

There are many and extensive plots of land which stand
desolate, there are likewise many fountains of water in great
disorder, and these are to be found on the general highway,
without a recognised owner, except the Turkish Government,
who are anxious to dispose of them at a very low price,
which might even be made less at the intercession of some
influential person who would advocate the cause of his
brethren before His Imperial Majesty; even small villages
connected with large towns, fields and gardens, and also
people to work them, could likewise be easily procured, so that
every facility is afforded us on our side to turn this measure
to a good account.

AFED.

We propose that the ages of the men to be employed to cultivate the earth should not be less than twenty or over thirty, and that they be possessed of great bodily strength; we have already amongst us engravers, carpenters, masons and builders, whose services will be required in colonising the place, so that all that would be wanting to make the thing complete would be the presence of an experienced agriculturist, whose duty would be to train the natives in the manner they should use the various machines for ploughing, sowing and reaping, etc.

If it pleaseth Providence to incline your hearts to promote our welfare, by selecting Agriculture to be our future salvation, permit me to suggest to you the appointment of one or two gentlemen who are known to you to be possessed of some knowledge of the Holy Land, as likewise the languages of the country; and on their being sent out here, let their first duty be to select the most convenient and best adapted places for Agriculture; then let them invite and draw out a list of the names of the inhabitants, who from their own free will would agree to undertake the labour of the field; and when they have arranged these matters in proper order, then let them proceed to Constantinople, the seat of His Imperial Majesty, to obtain from him a recognition of the purchases that you may make, and a protection order on behalf of the Jewish Agriculturists; on a future occasion there will be many more matters for me to communicate to you, the attainment of which will be highly desirable, if a visit to His Imperial Majesty is determined upon.

I must call your attention to a beautiful and fruitful plot of land surrounded by fountains of water, and situated between Accá and Caiffa; to walk over the same would

occupy two hours and a half, and great good would be achieved if this were to be procured, because great facilities would be given to commercial pursuits; likewise, as the two towns I have mentioned are both situated on the sea shore, and as the traffic in the exportation of wheat to foreign lands is great, it would be in our power to prepare a good road where conveyances could run, carrying the produce which our fields yielded to the warehouses which we should have built in these towns situated on the sea shore, when we might claim for ourselves the advantages which the Europeans enjoy from the adoption of these plans; they are in the habit of advancing money to the landowner — a sum of money with which he may buy a set of oxen or two; they likewise give him wheat, with which to sow the earth, and in consideration of this they claim half of the lands' produce; then there are others who advance money in the winter-time, and in consideration of the same they obtain the new corn at a third less than the market-price, but we, as Jews, cannot avail ourselves of these opportunities; firstly, the money-lender takes up his abode at the farm from the time that the reaping season commences, in order to watch the Arab (who is the landowner), that he does not cheat him, and this visit, at times, extends over a period of two months, whereas it would be impracticable for a Jew to remain alone for so long a time without permitted food, and without joining the Congregation in prayer, at least on the Sabbath-day. Besides, the non-Israelite has much more power and influence with the various judges of the land; so that, if the farmer intended to wrong him, he would succeed in obtaining satisfaction; whereas if the poor Jew advanced his money to the Arab, the chances would be that he would never see it again; besides, there are many other reasons which would prevent them carrying on such transactions. On the other

ABED. hand, if we ourselves became the owners of the land, and assumed the position of the Arab, we should assuredly acquire great patronage, as the wealthy would place their trust with greater confidence in us, our commercial pursuits would be extended far and wide, and every facility given to those who would seek employment in various callings, such as clerks, collectors, porters, drovers, &c., and our fame would go forth as that of being an honest and persevering race.

I am anxious that you should obtain this particular tract of land which I have mentioned, as close by it the natives of Würtemburg (Non-Israelites) have established for themselves a colony, and these are so kindly disposed to help us, that they have already expressed their willingness to assist us with all their power to crown our undertaking with success. Speaking of success, I may here mention that their efforts have produced noble results, for on spaces which were lying waste, a number of beautiful houses have been erected, and the land adjoining has been cultivated and converted into magnificent gardens and vineyards.

Must it not be mortifying to us to behold the manner with which other nations of the earth revere and appreciate the Holy soil (and this only from love of, and faith in, the Holy Bible), so much so, that many of them have left their native lands, and have established themselves here, both to their own advantage, and to the satisfaction of those by whom they are encouraged; whereas the poor Jews are left to occupy dilapidated dwellings in the most unwholesome thoroughfares, anxiously depending upon the loaf of bread purchased by the chance contributions of their friends in distant lands. Woe to us, that we are thus disgraced!

I shall now proceed to place before you a copy of a Memorial sent to me by many of my poor brethren, residing at present in Caiffa, and who were compelled to leave this, their native town, in consequence of the terrible famine that visited us some months back. 8A

The letter runs as follows, and is dated, Caiffa, 15th Ab, 5634:—

"To our learned and respected . . . .

"Sir,

"Being satisfied with the deep interest you always take in the welfare of your people, we have emboldened ourselves to address you, in order to pour out before you the bitterness of our feelings, in the hope of your exercising a powerful effort to advocate our cause to our benevolent brethren in distant lands.

"You are perfectly acquainted with the unfortunate circumstances that compelled us to take up our abode here, and the terrible hardships we endured by the cruel famine.

"We do not now intend reverting to the past, but we are compelled to express our mortification at the sight we behold daily, of the progress made by those natives of Würtemburg (Non-Israelites), who have established for themselves a colony round about this place, where their efforts have been crowned with every success; they have erected for themselves magnificent buildings, and improved the roads, so that conveyances may be safely run on them, while we are doomed to misery and trouble, without friends to encourage and help us to earn our bread by

perseverance and industry. If a tract of land were only procured for us, by our working it in proper order, there is no doubt that we should enjoy its fruits, and it would be well with us; and, to augment our chances of success, these good people have promised us every assistance in their power, if an opportunity be given to us.

"For this purpose, Sir, we approach you this day to entreat you to let your voice be heard as a trumpet, and with your eloquent language, advocate the cause of your miserable brethren, and may the Lord reward you and crown your efforts with success.

"Your faithful friends."

(Signed by Ten Householders, and the Congregation Seal is affixed to the Memorial.)

On receiving this letter I became perplexed, as their troubles gave me much uneasiness, and I knew not how to answer, or what course to pursue to bring their views to a successful end, and, while in this pondering state, lo, your pleasing communication, bearing date 15th Ab, reached my hands, and on beholding its contents, great pleasure and relief was felt both by myself as likewise by the inhabitants of this Holy Land, and in accordance with your request I hasten to express to you the earnest desires of our people who are anxious to embrace "Agriculture" or any other kind of work.

If you should determine to procure for us land, that we may colonise it, then an architect should be sent out to sketch plans for the erection of houses, as likewise a Synagogue and schools, and a teacher in the reading and

writing of the Turkish and Arabic languages should be appointed.

A European gentleman possessed of general knowledge and energy must be selected by you and sent here to manage all matters connected with the intended improvements, and together with him let two honest and experienced men from among us be chosen to act with him, whose commands all must obey.

There are many more points upon which the services of this gentleman might be asked, but I shall defer them for the present; when I see a streak of bright hope glittering over our future prospects, then I will make them known to you.

If these measures be established in our midst, famine will no longer threaten us, and many of our distressed brethren in other parts of the world would, on learning that a field of labour has been thrown open to the Jews, embrace the opportunity, and embark to this land in preference to their being compelled to go into the furthermost parts of the United States. To this place they would come, its earth they would cultivate, its villages they would occupy, the ruins they would rebuild and the desolate land would be tilled, and if God pleaseth this may be the fountain head of our being altogether gathered from between the nations.

There are still many more important views and plans to be recommended to your notice when once action is commenced by you, and although precious ideas present themselves to our notice, we retain them to ourselves for the pre-

sent, as many there are who have rushed forward with their opinions, confusing all and everything, but when matters are more settled down and the cry of hunger and thirst somewhat abated, then we shall collect our ideas and illustrate to you more fully the brilliant results that would arise from the introduction of these measures in a manner that would satisfy the expectations of our worthy benefactors.

I have observed the second report which Colonel Gawler has tendered to the Board of Representatives, and well has he advised them by recommending that in commencing operations it would be imperative that plots of land already cultivated be given only to a select number of individuals or to some society of men, that they may plant thereon.

I assure you that there are many whose lives were entirely devoted to the study of the Holy Law and yet are now anxious to embrace Agriculture, or any kind of labour that would enable them to earn their bread by the work of their hands, you have only now to make a move towards progress and you will find to your satisfaction the numbers of persons who will flock round you ready to undertake the duties imposed by labour.

We have no doubt that many reports will reach you from the various cities in the Holy Land touching upon this important subject, and many of them containing objections to the measures being introduced at present, and by their influence you might become less energetic in our cause, we implore you, therefore, O benevolent sir, to listen not to their remarks, incline yourself only to the solicitation of the thousands of distressed and respectable poor, accept

their utterances, and yield to bestow charity upon these innocent creatures, and let this be your praise.

We feel it our duty to inform you that we could not withhold our sentiments from our Representative, and likewise we copied your valuable letter, adding to it our own remarks and then circulated it in the different parts of the world, urging upon our exalted brethren that they unite themselves together to aid you in carrying out these precious ideas which have recently inspired both yourself and your noble colleagues to establish in our midst.

If it be your wish that I should solicit public aid in furtherance of the cause, I will do so with delight, providing you let me know to whom I am to apply, I would moreover gladly defray out of my own means all necessary expenses for postages, etc., even this report I have registered in order to secure its reaching your hands.

By this opportunity, we beg to enclose a letter directed to Colonel Gawler, returning him our thanks for the valuable assistance he rendered our community by the report he tendered to you our noble Lord, we hope that you will bestow upon us the favour of a reply conveying to us happy tidings which shall give pleasure to your distressed brethren, and with our sincere prayer directed to our Heavenly Father on behalf of Moses, the Lord's faithful servant, that He spare his days to behold Israel dwelling in their own land. May God be with him in all his undertakings.

(Signed) N. N.

CAIFFA,

Tishri, 5635.

To the pious and benevolent Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE,
Bart.,

President of the London Committee of
Deputies of the British Jews.

RESPECTED SIR,

The pleasing communication that has reached us from Sir Moses Montefiore, and from which we glean the hope that he intends to establish in our midst certain improvements calculated to ameliorate the condition of our poor, has aroused them from their deep slumber to give vent to their feelings, both to himself and the general Board of Representatives, in accordance with his special request, "desiring them to make known to him the best means that would secure for themselves permanent relief."

In reporting to you the ideas and wishes of my people on the subjects mentioned in your circular, I must remind you that the whole of this beautiful Mount Lebanon, and its environs were the selected places chosen by the Lord for His abode, it is the land which "God seeketh continually," it is a wall towards which all tongues direct their prayer, it is a part where all nations bow down and reverence, for it carries with it calmness and peace, the Master, alas! having turned from it, though only for a while, and the land of Judah remains forsaken (pardon me for this latter statement). But if you hasten to carry out your present noble designs, then here will be every chance of our raising ourselves to a level with our European brethren. The three objects submitted to our consideration

by Sir Moses Montefiore, viz., "Agriculture," "Mechanical Work," and "Commercial Pursuits," and last, and which is required in every calling, "Education," have been carefully considered by us, and thus determined. CAIFFA.

That "Agriculture" is most needed, as it brings with it everlasting bliss, and protects us against the numerous visitations of famine that have attended us in recent years. I will endeavour to strengthen our resolutions from the different passages that are to be found in our "Holy Writ."

At the creation of the world we find that the first command imposed upon Adam, when placed in the Garden of Eden, was "that he should till it and take charge of it." The patriarch Isaac sowed and ploughed the land, and God blessed his undertakings. Joseph, of old, in introducing his brothers to the King of Egypt, styled them by the name of shepherds, which is only a branch of husbandry. Moses, the leader of the prophets, said likewise to his people, "When ye come into the land, and ye shall till it, ye are to observe certain commandments, which depend entirely on Agriculture, and in his promises to his flock, he prayed that Heaven should give them rain, and the earth give forth its produce. Does it not, therefore, behove us to exercise our best endeavours to obtain this noble measure, as we should only be following in the same path as our ancestors did in years of old, besides in all the instances I have quoted, you will observe that no mention is made of general dealing, etc., etc.

Many are the precepts contained in the Holy Bible, and which depend only on the cultivation of the ground, such as the tithes, the observances of the years of release and jubilee; and if our fathers transgressed the observances,

and broke their covenant, they have received their punishment by their untimely end, and their expulsion from their own land. As the prophet rebukes them, by saying, "Now shall the earth rest, since she has had no rest under your charge for many days."

How sacred must have been the noble idea of Agriculture in the eyes of the Almighty, that being desirous that man should enjoy the fruits of his labour, Divine command ordereth that "when a man planteth a vineyard during the first year of its existence he shall be exempt from joining the army that goeth to war, lest he should die in the war, and another enjoy the fruits of his labour. . Our sages likewise attach so much importance to the worth of a plant which beareth fruit, that they have said, he who destroyeth a fruitful plant is almost as bad as he who commits murder.

Remember ye the days of old. Meditate, I pray you on the word of the Lord, spoken in past ages, when He said, "I will remember my covenant with Jacob," etc., "and the earth will I remember." The earth represents that selected spot upon which He chose to establish His everlasting dwelling, and on the self same spot of the earth we His children dwell.

It is a known fact that when a man is possessed of a piece of land which yieldeth fruit, no matter in what country it may be, no price, however high, could remove the owner from his possession as he becomes attached to his property; how much more so would it be if tracts of land be given to the poor of the Holy Land, on this holy spot. And if, by the will of God, it produced good fruit, they would cling to it, and preserve it, and no price, however high, could tempt them to part with it.

I am confident that if this laudable measure be carried out in our midst, the words of the holy prophets will surely be realised, for many of God's children will flock to the place, and will cause the land to bring forth an herb yielding seed; "they will, moreover, improve its borders and rebuild its ruins."

I presume that I have, so far, made myself clearly to be understood, and this is the only course that will lead to this place being again distinguished.

If "Agriculture" be established in our midst, and proper persons appointed to superintend the labourer in the working-field, then you may rest assured that the cries for help, which are continually issuing from the Holy Land, will cease, as every man will persevere on his ground to cultivate it to the best advantage, and by the will of God, to whom alone they will then look forward for help, He will cause the rain to bless their undertakings, and thus afford permanent relief for the requirements of their homes.

I pray that God with His infinite mercy shall send forth a light which may kindle in the hearts of our distant and benevolent brethren,so that they may accept with favour and mercy my entreaties on behalf of my poor brethren, residing not only in this town of Caiffa, but inhabiting the whole of the Holy Land, for their present position is equally wretched and heartrending.

There is at the present time a terrible darkness covering the face of the Holy Land; I fancy my distant brethren in dismay asking what meaneth this darkness that is hovering over the land of Judah? Let us see if we can give them light, I say it is assuredly in your power to do so, by esta-

blishing in their midst "Agriculture," you will then open to them a new light and a new life.

If you tarry too long in the execution of these measures, you will find no one on whom to bestow your bounties, as these miserable creatures are already in great distress.

On many occasions (and this Sir Moses Montefiore can affirm), measures such as these have been submitted to them, and yet the hearts of those who have been desirous of adopting means, wherefrom our young could be supported by the toil of our hands, and our position raised, have been turned away; the much respected Dr. Loewe, who has accompanied Sir Moses Montefiore on many occasions, can well affirm the truthfulness of my remarks, and he is fully cognisant of the proceedings that took place.

Oh, Lord, I beseech Thee, look down from Thy Holy dwelling, and have mercy upon Thy chosen people, incline the hearts of the noble princes that they place faith in my words, let them not suspect that I am in any way interested beyond that the tears of the oppressed have penetrated within me to cry aloud.

The assistance that is tendered to our community at all times when a cry of distress is raised, proves beyond doubt that our benevolent brethren are always anxious to exercise their power, in order to raise the position of our poor, but if that assistance is wasted, then in vain are their efforts and good intentions.

Our ancient teachers, of blessed memory, say "He who teacheth not his son a trade, teacheth him to be a thief."

"Love work, and evade the high appointment, as Spiritual Head and President of a Congregation." CAIPPA.

"More praiseworthy is the religious man who earns his livelihood by the work of his hands than he who is religious alone, and remains in a state of idleness."

Religious education, combined with industry, are to be compared to two modest, loving twin sisters, everlasting love existing between them, and they both occupy one dwelling, one does not despise the other, so that while they exist in this world, the one helps the other.

Be assured that this place can never be beautified except by the encouragement given to both of these laudable principles, if they are together the house of God may be rebuilt, their days will be renewed as those of the Eagle, the earth will yield its produce, and the trees of the field will clap their hands, the children that inhabit the place will joyfully sing when they eat from the toil of their hands, and reap the produce of their land, with joy they will carry their sheaves, the vine will produce its grapes, the fig-tree will perfume its figs, the flowers will be seen in the land, and the voice of the turtle dove will be heard in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, proclaiming peace and happiness amongst the inhabitants, as even the olive (though bitter) achieved by the sweat of their brow, will be more pleasant to them than the ox given to them as an offering from the hands of charity.

We have now heard that the redeeming Angel is the shepherd of Israel, Moses, the faithful servant of God, is desirous to exalt our horn, and to rebuild our ruins, and, contrary to usage, the Protector invites those who need protection to assist and protect him, as it were, by our counsel.

Before my Creator, before you, my worthy Sirs, I have already revealed the sentiments of my heart.

Every understanding person who has visited the Holy Land has testified to the excellence of its temperature and its pleasant situation. Its soil is susceptible of all improvement, and stands ready to yield the finest of produce. Numerous fountains and streams of water flow around its borders, the earth is crying like a woman in travail, and saying, Come ye and till me and I promise to afford you every reward. Is it not therefore mortifying to us to behold such brilliant prospects without being able to enjoy them, and only through the want of proper encouragement? I feel it is bad with me when I speak and far worse when I remain silent. I am the one that seeth the affliction of my people, for when I behold every town in Europe managed properly, for instance, when the child complaineth to his father by saying, select for me a teacher or apprentice me to a trade there are to be found in all these cities societies established to encourage the youth and thus raise the standard of the Jewish nation, and they will, besides teaching him, find means of supporting himself until he reaches manhood, when by his acquired knowledge he will be able to earn his livelihood, and, moreover, maintain a wife and family, while the City of God, the land of Judah, is reduced to the lowest grade; for although containing clever and promising children, yet, from the want of teachers and proper help, they have gone backward.

The important matters contained in Sir Moses Montefiore's letter I read from the one addressed to one of our colleagues, and from which great relief was afforded us in this the hour of our distress—hope is held out for us not to despair.

There is, at the present day, a Turkish officer, visiting various towns, offering for sale plots of land, as it is now becoming more in demand and value, so that the Ottoman Government would certainly give you every encouragement to execute your contemplated improvements as they are desirous that the land should be cultivated and made beautiful after the many years that it has been lying waste.

In my daily walks, which I am compelled to take to relieve my grief, I behold colonies which have been established recently (and situated by the sea-shores), by the natives (Non-israelites) of Wurtemburg and America. It is delightful to see them, they resemble the garden of the Lord. Beautiful houses have been built therein, and the choicest of plantations are there to be found; gardens and vineyards are there in abundance, and streams of water, sufficient to supply all their requirements, so that each inhabitant tills his ground, and earns his livelihood by the work of his hands with delight and pleasure. I have often sought an opportunity to ask the chief men of these colonies what object they had in coming to the Holy Land? and their reply has been to me, "the Holy Bible," which teaches us to recognise "the land," and the importance of inhabiting it. And they, in their turn, would express themselves to me in the following terms: "Lo! this is the land of your fathers, and why have you abandoned it, and allowed it to remain in a ruined state? We are still more surprised at you Jews. Where is your dignity? Where are your powers of intellect for which you were praised? Is this not 'the land which the Lord your God seeketh continually?' And yet there you are to be seen, with clenched hands, and doing no work?" I

JAIFFA. must confess that I became confounded by their questions, and knew not how to answer them.

The three branches of improvements suggested by Sir Moses Montefiore, viz., Agriculture, Mechanical Work, and Commercial Pursuits, we delight in, as the first and the second will both tend to encourage General Business Pursuits.

And now permit me to make the following suggestions to the respected and general Committee, prior to commencing operations, so that everything shall be established upon a firm basis. In the first place, the Committee should send out to this place an honest, intelligent, and amiable man, whose first duty should be to explore the land, and mark out the most available and convenient spots for the erection of a colony; then, let him enlist those who are willing to accept the duties of labour, and find out those who are not; then let him proceed to the seat of the Government, which is Constantinople, bearing with him a memorial signed by the pious Sir Moses Montefiore, as well as yourselves, and addressed to His Imperial Majesty, which must contain the following requests, viz.:—"the sale of the land at a low price," "the authority to establish colonies," "protection to the colonists," and "a release to the colonists from taxes, etc., for a term of ten years." If all these cannot be obtained, anyhow he may obtain the same concessions as were made to the natives of Wurtemburg and America. And on the return of the gentleman you appoint, let the land so purchased be measured out to him, and boundaries fixed, by which the extent of our possession will be for ever known. After all this has been achieved, then it will be for the Committee to take possession of all contributions, and supply all the necessary requirements for the establishment of a colony, such as machines, etc.;

and then those men who have already enlisted themselves to go the field of labour will proceed thither, there to commence work by building for themselves habitations for man and his goods, and, by degrees, success will follow. CAIFFA.

Your representative will have under his notice many other matters (which it would be impossible to commit to writing), such as the selection of men who are the most fitted to the various callings of the fields, and the appointment of teachers, to train the colonists in the use of the machines, and in all other matters tending to establish firmly the desired objects.

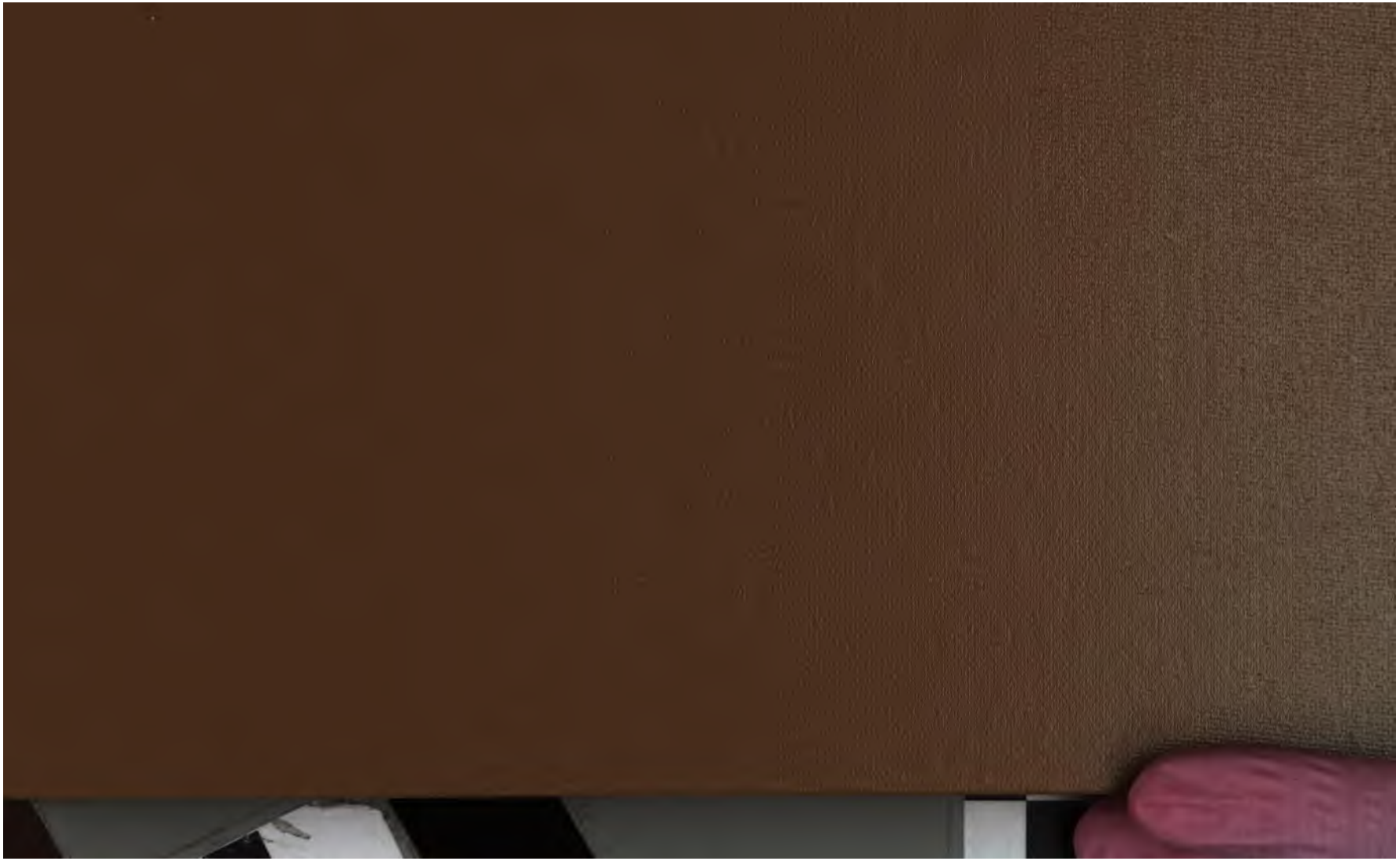
If this my report should find grace and favour in the eyes of the noble princes for whom it is intended and addressed, and if they wish that one from among us should visit London, I am fully prepared to make the journey, and without delay, the moment I receive such instructions, and when I would make known to you every circumstance from beginning to end.

As the contents of Sir Moses Montefiore's circular has been publicly addressed to all the communities of the Holy Land, as likewise Jerusalem, I have no doubt reports have been issued from every place.

May I beg of you the great kindness of making public this report that I have submitted to your noble consideration, by publishing the same in Hebrew or English, so that it may be circulated in the streets; and, were I able to exercise the art of photography, I should like to send you a sketch of our appearance, for I am certain that you would declare

CAIPPA. with sorrow that our faces resemble those of the poor and suffering.

In conclusion, let me offer you my humble prayer that the Almighty prolong your days, so that you and your worthy colleagues may be spared to behold the rebuilding of Zion.

(Signed) N. N.

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